

September 26, 2019

BEACH ADVISORY

Tarpon Bay Beach, Sanibel, tests high for bacteria



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Lee County, Fla. – The Florida Department of Health in Lee County (DOH-Lee) is advising the public not to enter the water at Tarpon Bay Beach, Sanibel due to high levels of bacteria identified in routine testing. This beach park is located at 2475 W. Gulf Dr., Sanibel, FL 33957.

Tests completed September 26, 2019, indicate that the water quality at Tarpon Bay Beach, Sanibel does not meet the safety criteria for *Enterococcus* bacteria recommended by the Florida Department of Health. Water contact may pose an increased risk of disease, particularly for susceptible individuals.

- No wading or swimming at Tarpon Bay Beach, Sanibel, is recommended.

Enterococcus bacteria normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals. The presence of an elevated concentration of these bacteria is an indicator of pollution, which may come from storm water runoff, pets, wildlife or sewage.

Elevated levels of *Enterococcus* bacteria have been associated with an increased risk of swimming-associated gastroenteritis illness (diarrhea and abdominal pain).

This advisory will continue until bacteria levels are below the accepted health level. New test results should be available for Tarpon Bay Beach, Sanibel on Friday, September 27, 2019.

For more information call (239) 274-2200 or go to <http://lee.floridahealth.gov/>.

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